

CITY OF MILPITAS  
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC)  
COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM, MILPITAS CITY HALL

MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2017

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call** Vice Chair Chang called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Commissioners present: Awasthi, Chang, Manogaran, Strohfus, Tsai. Commissioners absent: Arefi, Grilli. Alternate Commissioners absent: Li, Shapiro.
- Council Liaison Anthony Phan: Absent  
MHS Student Liaison Dinh: Present  
MUSD Liaison: No designee.  
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe: Present
- II. Alternates Seating of** None
- III. Allegiance Pledge of** Vice Chair Chang lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Minutes** MOTION to approve the minutes of January 26, 2017 with noted corrections.  
M / S: Manogaran / Awasthi Ayes: All
- V. Agenda** MOTION to approve the agenda of February 23, 2017.  
M / S: Awasthi / Manogaran Ayes: All
- VI. Announcements:** None.
- VII. Public Forum:** None.
- VIII. New Business**
- 1. Discuss Interest in Sister City Relationship with Hyderabad, India**  
Commissioner Awasthi presented his research into potential community support, which was found to be overwhelmingly positive from interviews conducted at the Indian Community Center. The reason is due to Hyderabad's influence as an economic and high technology leader in India. Discussion followed regarding the Request for Sister City form. Commissioner Awasthi will follow-up with his contact to obtain a clean copy of the form. He is also coordinating information with Hyderabad city representatives.
- IX. Old Business**
- 2. Possible Sister City Relationship with a Latin American City**  
No discussion occurred and this item was carried to the next meeting.
- 3. Update: Contact with Milpitas High School (MHS) Leadership Team**  
Staff reported that she is trying to obtain the name of the assigned Assistant Principal to coordinate help with student home stays and school attendance.

#### 4. Current Ideas in Motion to Promote the Sister Cities Program

Commissioners reviewed and played the Milpitas-Tsukuba Karuta card game. Discussion followed regarding participation in the International Festival & BBQ on May 20-21. After reviewing the outcome of the poll for participation taken by staff, it was determined to decide whether or not to participate at the next meeting.

## 5. City Plaza Signs

This item was tabled pending staff availability to coordinate a Council presentation.

## 6. e-Pal Project with Sister Cities

Student communications are ongoing; Tsukuba will conclude its participation in March and Huizhou and Dagupan students will continue through June.

## 7. Tsukuba City, Japan

MHS junior Ananya Donapati presented her idea to start an art project exchange between her art club and an art club or student group in Tsukuba. The purpose is to exchange art creations using regular or international mail. Staff will forward the information to Tsukuba representatives to begin Donapati's hopeful coordination.

## 8. Dagupan City, Philippines

Staff will email contact information to Lead Commissioner Tsai.

## 9. Huizhou Municipality, China

Staff reported that she has sent an email to the MHS principal regarding beginning this communication. Staff further noted that Huizhou representatives have inquired about a potential delegation visit to study the economics of Silicon Valley. Staff will respond to the inquiry, introduce new Lead Commissioner Chang, and ask for more information.

**X. Student Liaison Report** – A discussion followed regarding coordination between Donapati and Student Liaison Dinh.

## XI. City Council Liaison Report – None

**XII. School District Liaison Report** – None. It was asked who the assigned representative is. Staff will ask the City Clerk for the procedure to request a new designee.

### XIII. Future Agenda Items

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
  - i. Tsukuba, Japan
  - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
  - iii. Huizhou, China
2. Hyderabad, India

## XII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed. Vice Chair Chang requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting of February 23, 2017 to the meeting of March 23, 2017.  
M / S: Tsai / Awasthi                      Ayes: All